

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9229

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABAA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USUN NEW YORK 607

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IV, MR, SS, OAU

SUB: MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT STOPS OVER IN IVORY COAST
AFTER OAU SUMMIT

1. MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT MOKTAR OULD DADDAH MADE BRIEF
STOPOVER IN IVORY COAST JULY 8 EN ROUTE HOME FROM ATTENDING
OAU SUMMIT AT PORT LOUIS. GREETED AT AIRPORT BY ACTING
FOREIGN MINISTER AUGUSTE DENISE AND NUMEROUS RANKING GOIC
MINISTERS AND PERSONALITIES, MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT AND WIFE
WERE THEN HELICOPTERED TO PRIVATE RESIDENT OF GOIC PRESIDENT
HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY FOR LUNCH WITH HOUPHOUET BEFORE RESUMING
JOURNEY LATER IN AFTERNOON.

2. QUESTIONED BY REPORTERS AT AIRPORT FOR HIS IMPRES-
SIONS OF JUST CONCLUDED OAU SUMMIT IN PORT LOUIS,
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MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) OAU SUMMIT HAD BEEN QTE SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT END QTE BECAUSE OF SEVERAL PROBLEMS DISCUSSED WHICH DIVIDED AFRICAN STATES. ONE COULD STILL LOOK AT RESULTS WITH OPTIMISM HOWEVER SINCE END RESULT HAD NOT BEEN PERMANENT DIVISION BUT DECISION TO DISCUSS MATTERS FURTHER IN INTERESTS OF AFRICAN UNITY.

B) ISRAEL. OAU HAD CONDEMNED ENTEBBE AIRPORT RAID WITH UNANIMITY. ISRAELI ACTION WAS DANGEROUS PRECEDENT WHICH JEOPARDIZED SOVEREIGNTY AND SECURITY OF ALL STATES.

C) NUMEROUS RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED. SOME OF THEM, SUCH AS ON DECOLONIZATION AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN QUESTIONS PRESENTED NO PROBLEMS AND WERE PASSED EASILY. OTHERS WERE CONTENTIOUS WITH OPINION DIVIDED ON ISSUES SUCH AS DJIBOUTI, MAYOTTE AND WESTERN SAHARA.

D) WESTERN SAHARA. QUESTIONED FURTHER ON WESTERN SAHARA QUESTION DADDAH REPLIED THAT SUMMIT HAD REJECTED THE RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY CM AND INSTEAD PROPOSED AN EXTRAORDINARY OAU SUMMIT TO STUDY THE QUESTION FURTHER. DADDAH TOOK PHILOSOPHICAL TONE IN DESCRIBING THE HEATED CONTENTION THAT HAD TAKEN PACE OVER THIS ISSUE SAYING SIMPLY THAT SOME STATES SUPPORTED THE ALGERIAN POSITION OTHER THE MAURITANIAN/MOROCCAN ONE.

E) ASKED TO GIVE HIS OVERALL IMPRESSION OF THE SUMMIT, DADDAH SAID IT WAS SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTING WITH RESPECT TO THE SMALL NUMBER OF CHIEFS OF STATE WHO ATTENDED. DADDAH SAID HE HAS ATTENDED ALL OAU SUMMITS AND PORT LOUIS HAD FEWEST NUMBER EVER.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NO REPORT OF PRIVATE CONVERSATION BETWEEN DADDAH AND HOUPHOUET WAS RELEASED, IT PROBABLE THAT THE MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT WISHED BOTH TO BRIEF HOUPHOUET ON THE OAU SUMMIT AND TO SOLICIT IVORY COAST SUPPORT FOR MAURITANIAN /MOROCCAN POSITION ON WESTERN SAHARA IN LIGHT OF EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT ON QUESTION LIKELY TO BE HELD IN ACCRA IN AUGUST. TO DATE IVORY COAST HAS NOT TAKEN A PUBLIC POSITION ON THE ISSUE, BUT GIVEN ITS CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH BOTH MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO, ITS PRIVATE SYMPATHIES CLEARLY LIE WITH THESE COUNTRIES. IN THIS REGARD, GOIC SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT ALPHONSE BONI WROTE DISSENTING OPINION TO ICJ LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DECISION ON SPANISH SAHARA QUESTION LAST YEAR IN WHICH HE TOOK POSITION SUPPORTING MOROCCAN CLAIM TO TERRITORY. SMITH

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